



PATENT
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Serial No.: 10/069,587

#6 Request
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L. Spruell

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS : GOLDSTEIN, Mark R., et al.
SERIAL NO. : 10/069,587
FILED : August 15, 2000.
FOR : ADJUSTABLE KEYBOARD WITH ADJUSTING AND
LOCKING MECHANISM, AND METHOD OF ITS USE
GROUP ART UNIT : 2854
EXAMINER : Kevin D. Williams

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Response

The Examiner's Action of June 5, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Applicants hereby petition for a one-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) to extend the response period to October 6, 2003, October 5, 2003 being a Sunday. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 11-0600 for all fees and costs associated with this response. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

I. Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-8, 10-23 and 25-49 are rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huellemeier et al. in view of Gray. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Huellemeier et al. discloses a connector for connecting two keyboard segments to one another. The segments can be pivoted about the connector through 90 degrees in the plane of a support surface for the keyboard. In one embodiment, each keyboard segment

may be disposed at a maximum angle of 45 degrees to its support surface in a plane perpendicular to its support surface. As seen in Figs. 8 and 9 noted by the Examiner, the connector 14 includes a spherical ball 65 positioned between a bottom socket 66 and a top socket 67. The bottom socket 66 has an arcuate slot 68 extending for 90 degrees and formed to receive a shaft 69. The upper socket 67 includes a pair of split fingers 78 and 79 having an arcuate slot 80 therebetween to receive shaft 69. The shaft is threaded at its upper end for disposition within a tapped hole of a knob 83. The knob has a flat surface 84 with an inner hub 85 surrounding the tapped hole 82 with a spherical clamping surface 86.

Gray discloses a ball and socket interconnection and retractor assembly. As seen in Fig. 1, the socket is adapted to releasably receive the ball such that when the ball is received in the socket, it is capable of pivotal and rotational movement within the socket. Gray attempts at providing a means for releasably locking the components in a fixed/assembled position such that, when assembled, substantial relative movement between selected components is still possible. The radius of the inner space defined by the U clamp 26 may be adjusted by the rotation or pivoting of handle 34. The pivotal movement of handle 34 adjust the radius of the inner space through the action of a cam 36 which abuts on spacer 38 and actuates a bolt to open and close the arms.

First, there is no motivation to combine Huellemeier et al. and Gray to arrive at the instant invention as recited in independent claims 1, 18, 33 and 48. Huellemeier et al. already includes a locking mechanism for locking a position of the first and second keyboard segments with respect to one another. The locking mechanism, comprising the knob 83 including flat surface 84 and inner hub 85 coupled with shaft 69 works through a tightening of the knob against the shaft and through an engagement of cooperating surfaces of the inner hub and of the spherical surface 89 of upper socket 67. Clearly, replacing the knob with any other mechanism is nowhere disclosed or suggested in Huellemeier et al. as being desirable. There is in fact a disincentive for doing so. The exact match of the knob surfaces with the surfaces of the upper socket 67 for allowing locking engagement is precisely what allows the connector to be locked into position.

Second, even if Huellemeier et al. and Gray were combined, such a combination would not result in the instant invention. Even if the knob in Huellemeier et al. were

replaced with the handle 34 and cam 36 shown in Gray, such a modification would merely result in a configuration where pair of upper and lower sockets in Huellemeier et al. that are locked into position with respect to one another, and where movement of the ball 65 (and hence of the first and second keyboard segments) is still possible between those sockets. Clearly, such a modification would not result in a locking mechanism according to the instant invention as recited in independent claims 1, 18, 33 and 48.

In view of the above, it is submitted that independent claims 1, 18, 33 and 49 are patentable over Huellemeier et al. in view of Gray. It is further submitted that dependent claims 7-8, 10-17, 19-23, 25-47 and 49 are likewise patentable over the cited combination of references for being dependent from corresponding ones of the independent claims, and further for the particular additional features that they recite.


Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw his rejection of the claims under Section 103(a).

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 9 and 24. In view of the argued allowability of independent claims 1 and 18, from which claims 9 and 24 respectively depend, claims 9 and 24 are being maintained as dependent claims.

Date: 10-06-03

Respectfully submitted,
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